	1.2.97 to 30.4.97	1.2.98 to 30.4.98
Murder	155	156
Kidnapping	276	233
Looting(robbery)	188	138

(d) The steps taken by Delhi Police to prevent occurrence of crimes in the National Capital Territory of Delhi include intensification of foot patrolling as well as motor cycle patrolling; a closer surveillance of known bad characters; and verification of the antecedents of the servants, etc.

Attacks against artists

47. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing attacks against artists in the country by fundamentalist forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action Government have taken against the recent attacks on artists and exhibitions particularly in Bombay and Delhi; and

(d) whether Government have compensated those who had suffered losses as a result of such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Some incidents of attacks on artists and exhibitions have come to notice on 1.5.1998. Some Bajrang Dal activitsts ransacked the residence of painter M.F. Hussain at Cuffe Parade, Mumbai to protest against the display of repreoduction of a graphic of Hussain entitled 'Sita rescued' which depicted Goddess Sita, according to the protesters in objectionable situation in an exhibition at Asiad Village, New Delhi. In Delhi also, some VHP activists staged a demonstration on 23.2.1998 in front of Academy of Fince Arts and Literature to protest against the exhibition. Some agitations and protests marches have also been reported from Gujarat.

(c) and (d) In the case of rensacking of residence of M.F. Hussain, the Bombay Police registered a case and arrested 26 Bajrang Dal activists. "Public Order" and "Police" are State Subjects as per Entries I and II of List II—State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Therefore, the basis responsibility for the maintenance of law and order primarily rests with the State Government, including grant of compensation, as per rules, to those affected by Communal disturbances.

Talks with NSCN

48. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Union Government had initiated talks with the ISSAC Muviah faction of the NSCN;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to continue the process; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Violation of human rights by police

49. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent report of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) deals with the violation of human rights by police;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to place the said report on the Table of the House; and